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17 February 1948

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Subject: Meeting on SANAGC Sub-Committee on Psychological Warfare.

1. The Sub-Committee on psychological warfare met in a morning at 0930 with the following members present:

Chairman - Mr. Ralph Block	- State Department
Capt. Karl Pechmann	- Navy Department
Comdr. David Knoll	- Navy Department
Col. Clyde Rich	- Air Force
Col. William McNamee	- War Department
25X1 [redacted]	- CIA

2. Mr. Block opened the meeting by discussing informally certain ideas which had been coursing through his mind in the last few days. One subject that he touched on was the relationship between War-time Civilian Defense Programs and Psychological Warfare activities.

3. Mr. Block also brought up the question of training to develop individuals in colleges and universities so that they could readily be used in psychological warfare in time of war or threat of war. The service members of the Sub-Committee agreed unanimously that the Army, Navy and Air Force should not be in the position of asking for such educational endeavors. All present felt that stress should be laid upon the type of subjects that would best fit the mind of the pupil for future participation in psychological warfare activities. Two such subjects would be political science and psychology. I offered the suggestion that this matter could be discussed advantageously with the President's Commission on Higher Education, which to date has published only the basic part of its entire program. Having the President's Commission on Higher Education thinking along these lines, the subject should be passed along easily to the National Education Association.

4. Mr. Block spoke of the present financial problems of all colleges and universities where tuitions have materially changed in the last few years and operating costs have mounted considerably.

OSD & DOS review(s) completed.

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5. Captain Poehlmann spoke at length about the various physical set-ups in the armed services where psychological warfare training programs could be conducted. Colonel Rich (Air Force) countered by stating that there was no question about the existence of adequate facilities. The problem was what to do and how to do it, and hence the suggestion was offered that some expert or experts might be invited to sit with the Sub-Committee to suggest educational ideas and programs.

6. At this point the discussion turned toward the functions of the psychological warfare organization with specific emphasis on the mission and duties of the Director of the NSIA (National Security Information Agency). Here I observed that the size of the contemplated organization mentioned at the last meeting, i.e., 20,000 or more, appeared rather large, and I asked whether any alternate type of organizations were to receive consideration of the Sub-Committee. I inquired for example as to the possibilities of developing a peace-time operating unit which would serve as a nucleus for the war-time organization. Mr. Block answered that the figures mentioned at the last meeting may be too large. Perhaps the contemplated organization may be between 10,000 and 20,000 and at this stage they could not tell with any great accuracy. They were convinced, however, that there must be a separate organization under a fully empowered Director and that the organization would be composed largely of individuals assigned on a full-time basis from other agencies. Hence, even though co-ordination would be a function of this agency, it would primarily be an operating agency rather than one that has co-ordination as its main function.

7. In discussing the mission of the Director much time was consumed by Captain Poehlmann in differentiating between "National Policy" and "National Objectives." Throughout this melee of verbiage he made the sage observation that the whole may be greater than the sum of its parts. I asked him if he meant that two plus two did not equal four. He answered "Yes, in the atomic age, that is so" and with this entree Captain Poehlmann went into a philosophical discussion of metaphysical concepts which ended with no one impressed, and by the dropping of the words "National Objectives."

8. Mr. Block again asked about whether my nomination had been sent through officially. I smilingly pleaded ignorance. He then explained that this was a permanent Sub-Committee of SANAOC and would remain in existence indefinitely, mollifying

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its recommendations to keep abreast of changing times.

9. When the meeting finished about 12:15 p.m. I learned from some of the service members of the Sub-Committee that Captain Poehlmann is being assigned to sea duty as of 1 April 1948.

10. [redacted] will attend the meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, 18 February 1948, and if it does not conflict with my other primary duties in ICAPS I will attend the next meeting scheduled for Friday, 20 February 1948.

[redacted]
ICAPS MEMBER

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cc: [redacted]

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